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Senate strives to cut red-tape, sends permit deadline package to House

LANSING – The Senate today passed a comprehensive package of bills to implement a processing deadline on nearly every permit or license issued to businesses in the state of Michigan, said Sen. Alan Sanborn, chairman of the Senate Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Committee.

“By implementing a reasonable processing deadline for state permits, we are helping to ensure that Michigan workers will have jobs and that our resources remain at the forefront of consideration for new and existing businesses,” said Sanborn, R-Richmond Township. “Permits generate jobs – and jobs revitalize our communities.”

The Red-Tape Reduction Package is part the Republican JOBS Action Plan for revitalizing the state’s economy. The plan specifically targets ways to attract new businesses, save existing jobs and promote a healthier business climate in the state.

The framework established by the new bills would:

- Implement a fixed processing deadline for issuance of a permit or license;
- Require the state to notify applicants within 30 days if an application is incomplete and requires additional information;
- Refund the current application fee, and provide a 15-percent discount on the subsequent period’s application fee, if a deadline is not met; and
- Require departments to provide reports to legislative committees to ensure the new laws are making permit and license processes more efficient and timely for businesses.

The new laws would affect licenses for new businesses as well as operational permits for current job providers. The change is similar to provisions in the recently signed groundwater and surface-water discharge permit laws.

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